

‘Sweet Home Chicago’



**Nicole
Rhine**

As you know, the 72nd biennial convention of the NALC will be held this August in Chicago.

What you may not know is that ever since our founding meeting in Milwaukee in August of 1889, NALC members have met in national convention to set the policy and direction of the national union. The first national convention was held in Boston in 1890 and, at the time, NALC held annual conventions. It wasn't until 1903 that the convention went to a biennial format.

It was in 1946 that the NALC went to even-numbered years for the biennial convention. The 1946 convention was held in Detroit, following the 1943 convention in Denver. As you may have already guessed, the NALC skipped one year during World War II.

Biennial conventions were held every two years like clockwork from the 1946 convention in Detroit to the 2018 convention in Detroit, but the 2020 convention had to be canceled because of the pandemic.

This will be the third time that the national convention has been held in Chicago, which previously hosted national conventions in 1978 (the 51st biennial convention) and 2000 (the 62nd biennial convention). This year's Chicago convention was scheduled to be the 73rd biennial convention but instead will be the 72nd.

I can attest that lots of folks at Headquarters and at Branch 11 in Chicago, the convention's host branch, have been working very hard for many months now to put together the convention.

I want to remind all delegates of a few important items concerning the national convention:

Registration—The registration procedure at the national convention will be the same format as the last two conventions. As was reported in the Convention Call sent to all branches and state associations last fall, all delegates to the national convention will be required to register individually. All delegates will also be required to show a photo ID when they register and, for this convention, proof of vaccination as well.

Registration of delegates will be held in the West Center lobby on the third level of McCormick Place convention center on Saturday, Aug. 6, from noon to 5 p.m.;

Sunday, Aug. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Monday, Aug. 8, from 8 to 10 a.m. There will be signs at McCormick Place directing you to the registration area.

As has been the practice in the past, once the registration area closes on Monday, delegates may still register at the NALC Headquarters office, located in McCormick Place.

Delegates—Delegates are reminded that the credential cards sent to branch secretaries must be signed by both the branch president and branch secretary before being presented at registration. Delegate-at-large credential cards must also be signed by the state president and state secretary before being presented at registration.

Branch secretaries (or another branch officer if the secretary is not attending the convention) should also bring with them to the convention their delegate eligibility list and any correspondence related to delegate registration.

Alternate delegates—Alternate delegates who replace registered delegates need to bring to the convention their letters of authorization to be presented at registration. Under the *NALC Constitution*, before an alternate delegate is registered as a replacement for a regular delegate, written evidence must be presented stating that the duly elected delegate is unable to attend the convention.

Article 4, Section 3 of the *NALC Constitution* reads in part:

An alternate delegate before being admitted to the National Convention shall present either his/her certificate of election or written evidence from the Secretary of his/her Branch, or from the delegate for whom he/she is elected alternate, that the elected delegate is unable to attend the meeting of the National Association.

Convention sessions—Business sessions of the national convention are scheduled at McCormick Place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and then 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Workshops—Workshops are held at McCormick Place from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Thursday, prior to the business sessions, and from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday, after the business sessions. (A full list of workshops is in this edition of *The Postal Record*.)

General wisdom—If this will be your first national convention this summer, welcome! You should know that most delegates dress casually at the convention. But be aware that it can sometimes get cold on the convention floor and in workshops, so you may want to think about bringing along a light jacket, sweatshirt or sweater. Also, seasoned delegates will tell you to wear comfortable shoes, as you will do a lot of walking—McCormick Place is the largest convention center in the United States.